

Newsletter of the Idaho Native Plant Society Promoting Interest in Idaho's Native Flora

27th Idaho Rare Plant Conference

By Caroline Morris, Pahove Chapter

Idaho Native Plant Society (INPS) President Steve Love's brief closing remarks captured the essence of the 27th Idaho Rare Plant Conference (RPC): "We were educated, mentally stimulated, and participated in very meaningful activities...." Held February 10-11, 2016, in a wonderful Boise auditorium, 61 people attended the conference, including 3 students and 6 folks not from Idaho. We were honored that Dr. Pat Packard, of Packard's milkvetch fame, joined us. Holly Beck with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) directed RPC planning and preparations, and then led the lively meeting. Many other INPS members spent significant personal time making the meeting a success. The INPS and BLM were partners in sponsoring the conference.

Our keynote speaker was Shannon Still, Ph.D., Director of Plant Conservation and Curator for the University of California Davis Arboretum and Public Garden, and a member of the California Native Plant Society's Rare Plant Program Committee. He described how "Rare Plant Climate Modeling" can improve estimates of possible climate change impacts such as shifts in species distribution and viability and long-term persistence of western rare plant species and populations. His detailed discussion of the benefits and limitations of using species distribution modeling to predict the change, direction, and magnitude for all concerned species has particular value for future conservation efforts. He stressed careful examination of data indicating species absence, particularly for small and easily overlooked plants. Dr. Still concluded by suggesting how to

apply the species distribution model to Idaho's rare plants, and öffering modeling help.

The two-day RPC agenda included agency updates, rare plant rankings, superb panels, poster presentations, and individual speakers. Agency updates came from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) biologist Karen Colson ("Conservation in Action: How Recovery Planning Guides Conservation and Recovery of Idaho's Rarest Plant Species"), Idaho Natural Heritage Program (IDNHP) Botany Program Director Lynn Kinter and Ecologist Kristen Pekas ("Rare Plant Research by the Idaho Natural Heritage Program"), and Brenda Erhardt, Conservation Planner for the Latah Soil and Water Conservation District ("Spalding's Catchfly, Silene spaldingii, Recovery Efforts on the Palouse"). Beth Colket, Power Engineers botanist, later presented "Recommendations to Agencies."

Beth Corbin introduced everyone to the intricacies of the plant ranking process used for Continued on Page 5

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Letter from the President

After most of a year, I look back fondly on the 2015 INPS meeting held jointly with the Wyoming Native Plant Society. The four days of the meeting were filled with good company, wonderful views, and great botanizing. That's a hard combination to beat for any member of INPS.

I remember the ride to the top of the ski lift at Grand Targhee. Having skied at the resort several times in the past, I was familiar with the terrain, but had always seen it cloaked in snow rather than wildflowers. The high speed lift was a pleasant way to access the crest of Fred's Mountain and spectacular views of the Teton Range. After disembarking, we spent a few minutes watching a couple of pikas dodge in and out of the rocks, an unexpected site given the number of noisy people milling about. The high elevation ridgeline was carpeted with alpine beauties, most in full bloom. I found violet flowers of Townsendia alpigena, clumps of strikingly blue Penstemon cyananthus, soft yellow flowers of Castilleja sulpherea, and two distinct varieties of Anemone multifida. My head still spins a little when I recall hanging over a cliff face to get pictures of Primula parryi clinging to rocks below.

My best memories of the meeting are associated with the hike into Table Mountain. My wife and L joined 13 other intrepid explorers on this strenuous 12-mile roundtrip. Abundant spring rains made the foliage lush, often headhigh along the lower trail, and the wildflower viewing incredible. Although many of us did not guite make the summit due to a lightning storm, the trip was well worth the effort. On the lower trail, we saw Delphinium occidentale, fully 7 feet tall. We also saw a host of other species, including Spiraea splendens, Penstemon attenuatus, and Hypericum scouleri. In the upper bowls and ridgelines, we found Gentiana calycosa, Erigeron peregrinus, Hedysarum boreale, and a white-flowered variant of Mertensia ciliata. On the return trip, we observed an intriguing phenomenon associated with the columbine along the trail. At the top of the ridge, the columbine was typical of Aquilegia coerulea with white flowers, large floppy petals, and long spurs. As we moved down the trail, the plants morphed progressively to flowers with pink and yellow coloration, smaller petals, and short spurs. By the time we reached the lower trail, the plants were typical of Aquilegia flavescens. But the intermediate forms in between were very intriguing.

So, you can see why I am excited about the upcoming annual meeting in the Clearwater country around Grangeville. I am intending to acquire a whole new set of lifetime memories. Nancy Miller and her crew have put together a wonderful agenda for us. I hope you have set aside a few days to meet with us in June. I extend my personal invitation. See you there.

Yours truly,

Stephen Love, INPS President



Douglas' grasswidow (Olsynium douglasii) Illustration by Karie Pappani Photo reference: Kirsten Severud

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Announcements

2016 Idaho Botanical Foray

The 9th Annual Idaho Botanical Foray is fast approaching. It will take place June 16-19, 2016 in the Pahsimeroi River and upper Little Lost River areas in east-central Idaho. Tucked between the crests of the Lemhi and Lost River mountain ranges, this botanically diverse area includes a number of Idaho endemics and habitats that vary from alpine summits to riparian bottomlands. We look forward to contributing new collections from a somewhat remote area of Idaho. The plan is to camp at either the Timber Creek Campground or the Mill Creek Campground just off the Sawmill Canyon road, a spur off the main Pahsimeroi Road. From the small town of Howe, it is roughly 45 miles to the campgrounds. Logistics and other information are available on the INPS webpage and on Facebook on the Idaho Botanical Foray link. The 2016 Foray is being sponsored by Idaho State University. Please contact Janet Bala (balajane[at]su.edu) at the Ray J. Davis Herbarium, Idaho Museum of Natural History if you have questions.

From Refugia to Ridgetops - INPS Annual Meeting

The 2016 Annual Meeting of the Idaho Native Plant Society will be held June 10-13, 2016. The meeting will be based out of the Fish Creek Group Use Camp and the Fish Creek Pavilion on Mt. Idaho, 8 miles south of Grangeville, Idaho. Field trips will provide opportunities to explore several types of habitats along nearby rivers and ridgetops. The Lochsa and Selway rivers east of Grangeville serve as refugia for disjunct populations of plants which otherwise are found west of the Cascade Mountains of Washington and Oregon. Other field trips will explore the extensive grasslands and associated forbs found on the canyon breaks west of Grangeville in an area with spectacular views of both the Snake and Salmon River drainages. Get more details and register online at:

http://idahonativeplants.org/statewide-annual-meeting/ The March issue of Sage Notes also included detailed information about the annual meeting. Directions (watch for INPS signs): The Fish Creek Pavilion - from Grangeville, head south on Grangeville-Salmon Road for approximately 7 miles to the Fish Creek Meadows area (the road may change names). Turn right on Forest Road 4600. The entrance to Fish Creek Pavilion is located 300 feet ahead on the left. GPS 45.85778, -116.008167. The Fish Creek Group Use Camp is approximately 1.5 miles south of the Pavilion on the main road. The entrance road angles off on the right and approximately 100 yards further the group camp entrance is on the left. Members will be there to help you site your vehicle.

For further information please contact one of the following:

Nancy Miller (nmiller[at]moscow.com, (208) 301-0560), Judy Ferguson (jlf.sun[at]yahoo.com, (208) 585-7074), Susan Rounds (groundkpr4[at]gmail.com, (208) 596-8092) White Pine chapter (whitepine.chapter[at]gmail.com).

Idaho Mystery Plant

This photo was taken by Michael Mancuso in a high elevation lodgepole pine forest in the South Fork Clearwater River drainage. What is your guess for this plant? The answer will be revealed in the next edition of Sage Notes.

The Idaho Mystery Plant in the March 2016 issue was alpine collomia (Collomia debilis) in the phlox family. It is found on rocky slopes and shifting talus at high elevations in the mountains. Its distribution extends from the Olympic and Cascade Mountains in Washington, southward to Oregon and eastward to Idaho, Montana, Utah, and western Wyoming.

Have an Idaho Mystery Plant to share? Send it in to the editor: sage-editor[at] idahonativeplants.org.

— Michael Mancuso



ERIG Announcements

The ERIG Program Needs You

Want to help INPS support great projects? The Education, Research, and Inventory Grant (ERIG) program relies on funding from various sources such as memberships, workshops, and private donations. If you, your business, or your employer would like to make a donation to INPS to help fund these worthwhile ERIG grants, send your tax deductible donations to: ERIG Program, INPS, P.O. Box 9451, Boise, ID 83707. Checks should be made out to INPS. Please be sure to specify that your donation is to be used for ERIG projects.

We have made it even easier. You can donate online to the ERIG Program using PayPal. Your donations to this program allow us to award additional funds to grantees or increase the number of grantees in a year. Undertaking new initiatives while supporting our existing programs depends on the investments our members and friends make in INPS and its goals in promoting conservation and education. Please consider making a donation. Thank you for your help!

ERIG Donations in Memoriam

We would like to thank the following for donations made in memory of INPS members who have passed away: Lynda and Jay Smithman in memory of Jon Trail, charter member of Pahove Chapter Nancy and Reid Miller in memory of David Skinner, White Pine Chapter member.

ERIG Donations for 2016

We would also like to thank the following people and organizations for their donations to the ERIG fund: Nancy Cole, Nan Vance, LaMar Orton, Patricia Heekin, Johnathan & Holly Beck, Lorna Snowden, Carol Ward, Reid Miller, Diana Landis, Pamela Conley, Pahove Chapter-Rare Plant Conference, Idaho Arid Gardening Alliance.

Because of over \$1,100 in extra donations we were able to increase our granting funds to \$3,000 this year. We received nine proposals in 2016 that met ERIG guidelines, and will be able to fund more projects than usual because of everyone's generosity. Stay tuned for the fall issue of Sage Notes and find out who the new grantees are and what they are doing to further the education, research, and conservation of native plants in Idaho. A list of past ERIG recipients is posted at https://idahonativeplants.org/erig-news/

- Janet Bala, ERIG Committee Chair, balajane[at]isu.edu

Idaho Transportation Department Partnership Pollinator Project

An Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) project comprises a 6.6 acre triangular parcel within the median joining I-84 and I-184 within the city limits of Boise. This area is known as the "Wye" connector. A retention pond in the center of the project area is fed by an irrigation ditch and surface runoff. The Wye construction project originally included a formal landscape plan. However, the plan was never implemented. Instead the site was reseeded in 2002 during construction. This seeding failed and there were no subsequent revegetation efforts.

The ITD would like to use the Wye site as a research project to establish a variety of pollinator species with overlapping blooming periods. This project would consist of preparing soil, and reseeding and planting native pollinator species around the perimeter of the pond and on the nearby upland slopes. Weed control would be accomplished by hand pulling and small scale spot spraying during appropriate seasons. The benefits of having this high visibility site as a pollinator habitat planting include: increased Department of Transportation experience with Idaho's native pollinator species; the opportunity to collect more data on ecosystem-specific vegetation for future projects; reduced need and costs for mowing; reduced need for fertilizer and herbicide applications: little or no irrigation needed after the first season, resulting in water resource conservation; seasonal Idaho wildflowers providing interest to highway users; added pollinator habitat in an urban environment; and increased public awareness that could stimulate citywide interest in pollinator plantings, as well as a potential model for our statewide highway system. The Idaho Transportation Department is looking for interested parties and partnerships to help make this project feasible and successful. Please contact Cathy Ford, ITD Roadside Programs Manager, at (208) 334-8416 or cathy.ford[at]itd.idaho.gov, for more information and if you are interested in being part of this project.

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species INPS considers to be rare and of conservation concern in Idaho. During the sessions, four members of Northern Idaho and 12 members from the Southern Idaho Rare Plant Working Groups (NIRPWG and SIRPWG, respectively) presented new information for updating the state (S-rank) conservation rank for 55 selected rare plant species. Agreement for the appropriate conservation rank required consensus from conference attendees.

Some of the NIRPWG members also participated in a very informative Pollinator Panel, including Kristen Pekas, IDNHP Ecologist: Angela Sondenaa, Nez Perce Tribe Ecologist: LeAnn Abell, BLM Coeur d'Alene District Botanist: and Derek Antonelli, IDFG Biologist and Master Naturalist. Two very large projects were LeAnn's involvement with the Blackwell Island Native Plant and Pollinator Garden, located at the BLM's Blackwell Island Recreation Site on the outskirts of Coeur d'Alene; and Derek's work with the "Clark Fork River Delta Restoration Project: Benefit for Pollinators," located 25 miles SE of Sandpoint where this river enters Lake Pend Oreille, and the site of the 2012 INPS Annual Meeting. Angela Sondenaa also helpfully displayed many pollinator books and related materials for others to peruse.

Another panel updated the audience about conservation projects related to Packard's milkvetch (Astragalus cusickii var. packardiae). The panel consisted of Anne Halford, Matt McCoy, and Tom McGinnis with the BLM: Michael Young with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG): Karen Colson with the USFWS, and freelance botanist Michael Mancuso.

Poster presentations displayed just outside the auditorium included: "Pollinator Associates and Seed Production in Packard's Milkvetch" by Lynn Kinter, IDNHP and Justin Fulkerson, formerly with IDNHP; "Early Monitoring is Critical for Unbiased Demographic Estimates of the Threatened Plant Spalding's Catchfly (Silene spaldingii)" by Janice Hill, IDNHP; and "Phylogenetic Analysis Improves Resolution of Evolutionary Relationships in Lomatium," by Mckayla Stevens, biology student at College of Idaho.

We also heard excellent short, well-illustrated talks, including "Recent Conservation Efforts for Lepidium papilliferum, Slickspot Peppergrass" by Barbara Schmidt, USFWS: "A Taxonomic Overhaul of Abronia in the Interior Pacific Northwest" and "Types and Nomenclature: A Quick Primer," both by Barbara Ertter, University of California Berkeley and Jepson Herbarium; and "Monarch Butterflies on the Curlew National Grassland" by Rose Lehman, Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

Interspersed between oral presentations were jokes testing our sense of humor, a botany yoga exercise, and

botany coloring sheets with colored pencils to help focus listeners. Various botany books were given as prizes to the winning recipients of drawings for ERIG donors, mystery plant quiz guessers, and luck of the draw.

All RPC registrants received an attractively labeled packet (with a line drawing of Packard's milkvetch by Karie Pappani) containing the agenda, speaker bios and their talk abstracts, the INPS Rare Plant List, a list of all plants to to be discussed at the conference, information regarding the INPS Rare Plant List methodology, and a list of conference registrants; along with a colorful newly produced INPS decal, and a green glass (recycled!) tumbler delicately etched with a Packard's milkvetch stem, drawn and lettered by Susan Ziebarth.

This meeting was well-timed for many colleagues and friends to appreciate and honor Beth Corbin, retiring from her BLM botany work the week after the conference. Heartfelt wishes of good cheer were lavished on Beth, along with some tangible treats.

We had an Italian buffet at the Stone House the first night and a casual gathering at The Reef after the second evening of the conference. Both events provided great socializing and networking opportunities. We also enjoyed catered treats during conference breaks.

INPS members affiliated with the Idaho State University Ray J. Davis Herbarium sold beautiful photo notecards of native plants. They also had copies of the Grasses of Idaho booklet by Glennon, Holte, and Ronald for sale, with proceeds supporting the herbarium.

The Pahove Chapter donated the tumblers, printing, registration packets, and the keynote speaker's registration fee: BLM paid his lodging and travel costs. Beth Corbin paid for INPS decals and additional computer storage for the RPC Forum.

Other good news: because of donations, the RPC had a surplus budget of about \$1200, after expenses. In addi-

tion, we raised \$225 for the INPS Education Research Inventory Grant program (ERIG) from \$145 in sales of surplus tumblers and 25 mugs from prior RPCs, some as early as 1998, plus \$80 cash donations. The INPS Treasurer deposited these funds in the RPC/ERIG accounts.

Plan to come to the 28th RPC in 2018! •



2016 Idaho Rare Plant Conference - Rare Plant List Update Results By Beth Corbin, Pahove Chapter

As Caroline Morris reported (article, page 1), the 27th Idaho Rare Plant Conference (RPC) was quite a success. A large part of the RPC was spent updating the Idaho Rare Plant List. Members of the Southern Idaho and Northern Idaho Rare Plant Working Groups (RPWGs) had researched specific plant species, and then developed recommended updated S ranks to take before the RPC. The S-rank is a state-level ranking of a plant's rarity, vulnerability, and overall conservation status in Idaho, ranging from S1 (critically imperilled) to S5 (demonstrably secure). (See NatureServe.org for more information on state and global conservation status rankings.) At the 2014 RPC, we decided to include S1, S2, and S3 ranked plant species (as well as SH–state historic and SX–presumed extinct in the state) on the Idaho Rare Plant List.

Members of the RPWGs presented information and recommendations on 55 plant species at the 2016 RPC. After discussion and the opportunity to provide additional information, a consensus from the conference attendees was reached on each plant for an updated ranking. See Table 1 for a list of all plant species presented and their updated rank, or other disposition relative to the Idaho Rare Plant List. Based on this process, 18 species were maintained in the Rare category with an updated ranking. Twenty other plants received an updated ranking and were moved from the Review to the Rare category. Seven species not previously in the Review or other categories were ranked and added to the Rare list. Eight plants (mostly from the Review category) were dropped from the list, either because no confirmed Idaho records could be found or because they were more common than previously thought (S4, in this case). One plant was considered but not ranked and is maintained in the Review category: and another plant was considered but not added.

This updating of the conservation ranks is a result of excellent work by members of the RPWGs leading up to the RPC. If you are interested in participating in this vital effort, please contact Derek Antonelli (antonelli8[at] frontier.com) for the Northern Idaho RPWG or Beth Corbin (botanybeth[at]gmail.com) for the Southern Idaho RPWG.

The updated Idaho Rare Plant List has been posted on the INPS web site, and it includes notes from the RPC on all species that were considered. •

Plants Maintained on RARE List; Rankir	0	Updated Rank
Agoseris lackschewitzii	Pink agoseris	S1S2
Allenrolfea occidentalis	lodinebush	S1
Astragalus aquilonius	Lemhi milkvetch	S3
Astragalus conjunctus var. conjunctus	Stiff milkvetch	S3
Astragalus microcystis	Least bladdery milkvetch	SH
Astragalus riparius	Piper's milkvetch	S1
Botrychium lineare	Narrowleaf grapefern	SH
Calamagrostis tweedyi	Cascade reedgrass	S2
Cuscuta denticulata	Desert dodder	S1
Kobresia simpliciuscula	Simple kobresia	S1
Lewisia sacajaweana	Sacajawea's bitterroot	G2+ S2
Orthotrichum hallii	Hall's orthotrichum moss	S1
Pentagramma triangularis ssp. triangularis	Goldenback fern	S1
Salicornia rubra	Western glasswort	S2S3
Spiranthes porrifolia	Western ladies'-tresses	S1
Stanleya confertiflora	Biennial prince's-plume	S1
Trifolium douglasii	Douglas clover	S1
Triptocladium leucocladulum	Moss	S2S3

Table 1 - Results of the 2016 Rare Plant Conference: Rare Plant List Update

 Plants moved from Review to RARE List; Acorus americanus Allium columbianum Amphidium californicum Arabis sparsiflora var. atrorubens Argemone munita ssp. rotundata Botrychium lunaria Botrychium minchiganense Bromus sitchensis var. aleutensis Callitriche marginata Carex pallescens Carex tumulicola Cassiope mertensiana ssp. mertensiana Cyperus odoratus Heterotheca barbata Kobresia myosuroides Lesquerella prostrata Pediocactus nigrispinus Plantago eriopoda Trichostemma oblongum Plants Added to RARE List: Ranking Upd Abronia mellifera Agrimonia striata 	Sweetflag Columbia onion California amphidium moss Sickle-pod rockcress Prickly poppy Common moonwort Michigan moonwort Alaska brome Winged water-starwort Arctic hare's-foot sedge Pale sedge Foothill sedge Western bell-heather Rusty flatsedge Spokane false golden-aster Pacific kobresia Prostrate bladderpod Snowball cactus Saline plantain Mountain bluecurls	Updated Rank S2 S3 S1 S3 S1 S3 SH S1 S1 S1 S1 S1 S1 S1 S1 S1 S1	
Astragalus purshii var. lagopinus	Hare's-foot milkvetch	S1	
Botrychium tunux Meesia triquetra	Tunux moonwort Three-ranked meesia moss	S1 S1	
Monardella anqustifolia	Leslie Gulch monardella	S1	
Phacelia idahoensis	Idaho phacelia	G3+ S3	
Plants Dropped: Ranking Updated (8) Botrychium campestre	Prairie dunewort	No Idaho records	
Castilleja occidentalis	Western Indian-paintbrush	No Idaho records	
Crassula aquatica	Water pygmyweed	S4 Na Idaha rasarda	
Crepis pleurocarpa Eriogonum desertorum	Naked-stem hawksbeard Desert buckwheat	No Idaho records No Idaho records	
Halimolobos perplexa (combined varieties)	Puzzling rockcress	S4	
Pyrrocoma uniflora var. uniflora	Plantain goldenweed	S4	
Thlaspi idahoense (combined varieties)	Idaho pennycress	S4	
Plant Considered, Maintained on Review List Ericameria bloomeri Bloomer's goldenweed Not ranked			
Dlant Considered but Net Added			
Plant Considered but Not Added Hutchinsia procumbens	Prostrate hymenolobus	Not ranked (non-native)	

A Big Welcome to Idaho's Newest Rare Plant! Boise Sand-verbena (Abronia mellifera var. pahoveorum)

By Barbara Ertter, Pahove Chapter

We're used to the idea that new plant species are routinely being discovered in remote parts of the planet, and possibly even off-the-beaten-track areas in western North America. But within sight of downtown Boise, within walking distance of the author's house? Yet such is indeed the case for the latest addition to Idaho's flora, the Boise sand-verbena (Abronia mellifera var. pahoveorum). And a very charismatic plant it is, with large white pompoms of mildly fragrant, night-blooming flowers.



Close-up of Boise sand-verbena. Photo by Barbara Ertter.

Like most newly described species, the plant itself had been known for some time, with herbarium specimens in this case going back at least to an 1892 collection by Isabel Mulford (yes, the same woman for whom another iconic Boise area plant, Mulford's milkvetch, is named). An anonymous collector in 1911 called the Abronia "quite common on sandy slopes" in Boise, but by the time I was cutting my botanical teeth on the Boise flora in the 1970's, it was already seldom encountered.

Not only was the local sand-verbena in obvious decline, but its exact identity was also a puzzle. Using the key in Hitchcock and Cronquist's Flora of the Pacific Northwest, plants in the Boise foothills keyed out to Abronia mellifera if one relied on fruit characters, but to A. fragrans if the involucral bracts were deemed more diagnostic. Subsequent revisions of the genus, including that by Rick Spellenberg ("Mr. Nyctaginaceae") in Intermountain Flora, eliminated A. fragrans as an option in the Pacific Northwest, but made no provision for the exceptionally large involucral bracts and certain other features of the Boise-area populations within A. mellifera.

Fearing that a lovely plant I had developed a fondness for in my early years was in danger of going extinct without its uniqueness even being appreciated, I bit the bullet and undertook a whirlwind study of Abronia mellifera throughout its range last summer, followed by an analysis of herbarium specimens. My collaborator at University California-Berkeley, Sonia Nosratinia, included the samples I collected in her on-going molecular phylogenetic analysis of the genus and confirmed that the Boise plants were indeed part of the A. mellifera clade. The full results of our study on A. mellifera are not yet published, but we decided to expedite publication describing the Boise populations in the electronic journal Phytoneuron in March 2016 (http://www.phytoneuron.net/2016Phytoneuron/20PhytoN-Abroniamellifera.pdf).

I'd toyed with the name "subrostum" for a plant that had been "under our noses" for so long, but decided instead to use the wonderful opportunity to honor the entire Pahove Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society, "many of whom have contributed directly to past and current understanding of the new variety, and whose collective efforts will be instrumental in ensuring the continued existence of this beautiful plant."



Boise sand-verbena overlooking a Boise neighborhood. Photo by Barbara Ertter.

Collective efforts will indeed be required to keep the Boise sand-verbena from going extinct, now that its unique identity is finally official. The most distinctive populations occur (or occurred) only in loose sand below 1100 meters in the hills between Lucky Peak Dam, Horseshoe Bend, and Emmett, mostly in old lakebed sediments on the northern edge of Pliocene Lake Idaho. Scattered populations to the west, still under investigation, are transitional to other forms of A. mellifera.

Prime habitat unfortunately coincides with prime real estate for housing development in the Boise foothills, with any remaining possibilities of preservation rapidly disappearing in the face of the current post-recession housing boom. And whatever remaining habitat is not bulldozed is becoming increasingly degraded by the relentless invasion of cheatgrass, feral rye, rush skeletonweed, and other habitat-altering non-natives. As a result, less than 100 plants were located in 2015, mostly on sites destined for development or consisting of populations too small to be self-sustaining. Fortuitously, the same human population density that has driven the Boise sand-verbena to the brink of extinction can also become its salvation, if enough individuals choose to do what they can to help. Opportunities include locating and reporting additional plants, adopting known populations for site stewardship, and helping with propagation at the Idaho Botanical Garden and other designated sites. For information on volunteer opportunities, contact the Pahove Chapter of INPS, the Sagebrush Steppe Chapter of the Idaho Master Naturalists, the Idaho Botanical Garden, or the Idaho Natural Heritage Program of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Remember, even small efforts can collectively add up to a big difference! •

Lucky Peak Nursery Native Plant Trail Tour

Approximately 25 Pahove members and potential members were treated to a rarely scheduled evening tour of the U.S. Forest Service's Lucky Peak Nursery (LPN)



Arrowleaf balsamroot along the trail. Photo by Jody Hull.

and its native plant trail on May 4, led by member Howard Little (LPN docent), Kelly DeMasters (LPN program specialist), and Lesa Shields (Master Gardener volunteer). The nursery's hilltop site, 10 miles NE of Boise along Highway 21, overlooks the Boise River and its adjacent slopes. Those driving at a reasonable speed from Boise may have seen miles of blooming lupine and arrowleaf balsamroot beautifully lining the roadsides. Some of the LPN native plant trail's spring blooms were: arrowleaf balsamroot (Balsamorhiza sagittata), western serviceberry (Amelanchier alnifolia), fiddleneck (Amsinckia menziesii), cluster-lily (Brodiaea spp.), sticky geranium (Geranium viscosissimum), woodland star (Lithophragma spp.), puccoon (Lithospermum ruderale), fern-leaf desert-parsley (Lomatium dissectum), thread-leaf phacelia (Phacelia linearis), western chokecherry (Prunus virginiana var. melanocarpa), and foothill deathcamas (Toxicoscordion paniculatum). The trail also had ample poison ivy, energetic ticks, and a gorgeous panoramic view at the top. The trail's unusual, comfortable walking surface was finely shredded pine cones, minus all their seeds, already extracted for LPN's nursery business.

The LPN is one of 6 U.S. Forest Service nurseries that grow millions of trees and shrubs annually, primarily for replacing Forest Service lands' fire losses. We toured its seed processing and cold storage facilities, plus the immense greenhouse full of tiny pines (ponderosa and lodgepole), sagebrush, and many other shrub species seedlings. Revising a brochure and doing signage for the LPN Native Plant Trail were suggested by a member. This would be a valuable service project for Pahove. We hope that interested members will pursue this project, coordinated with LPN. Everyone really appreciated this

special evening tour of LPN, with our souvenirs of ponderosa pine tube seedlings and lodgepole pine cones to open in the microwave. — Caroline Morris, Pahove Chapter

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Landscaping for a Sense of Place—a Modest Proposal

By Diane Jones, Draggin' Wing High Desert Nursery, Boise

I first encountered the notion of landscaping with native plants while living in the upper Midwest. My daughter's primary school boasted a three-acre prairie, which parents and teachers got together to burn every year in an effort to discourage weeds and encourage the fire-adapted natives. Later, on trips to New Mexico, I was stunned by the beauty of Southwest landscape design based on cactus, yucca, agave and rock. And I remember in St. George, Utah, seeing lots of the graceful sand sagebrush (Artemisia filifolia) and other desert natives that had been planted—or at least not removed—along roads and around homes in the town.

Having now worked for some years with Idaho native plants, I try to imagine how our towns and cities might look if we really embraced native plants. I try to envision a regional landscape style that would feel as clearly at



Draggin' Wing Native Plant Garden with serviceberry, golden currant, syringa, Wyeth buckwheat in bloom. Photo by Diane Jones.

home here as the prairie is at home in the Midwest, the cacti in Santa Fe or the sand sagebrush in St. George. There are plenty of good reasons for using natives—water conservation is a big one. Improving habitat for insect and bird populations is another one, plus reducing the need for fertilizers and pesticides. But a big part of what interests me is the notion that if the plantings around our homes and public spaces felt more native, we ourselves might be inclined to feel more native. Learning and appreciating the plants of a region is certainly one of the ways of "putting down roots" and becoming native to that region. And feeling native to a place in turn causes folks to want to protect and preserve that place.

In thinking about regionally evocative landscape possibilities, the first obvious point is that plants do not respect political boundaries. Because I live in Boise, my focus is on the plants of the region I refer to as "Northern High Desert"—roughly, Southern Idaho, Northern



Draggin' Wing Native Plant Garden with winterfat, bitterbrush and various perennials. Photo by Diane Jones.

Nevada, Eastern Oregon and Northern Utah. A signature landscape for lowland Southern Idaho would look different from, but share some features with landscape styles expressing the unique character from other parts of the state.

There is a difference between native plant restoration and creating an evocative regional landscape style. Restoration is what needs to happen on vast swaths of overgrazed and disturbed federal and state lands. Evocative native landscaping is what could happen in home yards, urban public spaces, and along the margins of our streets



Rabbitbrush with dwarf shrubby penstemon and arrowleaf buckwheat. Photo by Diane Jones.

and highways. There, aesthetic choices would be as important as botanical correctness. The landscapes would

have to be beautiful or they would not work; but they would also help to challenge and redefine "traditional" concepts of beauty. And as a practical matter, to keep our cities tolerable in summer, non-native shade trees would need to be part of the mix. A project of human design, native-style landscaping would be an imitation, not a replication of nature. One thinks of Japanese landscape design, an art that reflects and evokes nature without being exactly natural.

Reworking home landscapes in a regional style would be a great start, but real change would come if the concept were implemented in public spaces-city parks, public buildings, roadways. Reducing lawn and "re-wilding" sections of city parks could reduce long-term water and maintenance costs. Right now many median and border strips along highways are just let go to weeds. Even simply seeding such areas with sturdy natives like sagebrush, rabbitbrush and native bunchgrasses would be a great improvement.

Imagine how refreshing it would be for visitors driving across country to arrive in Idaho towns and be greeted by landscapes that show off to the best advantage our unique and beautiful bioregion. Lawns have mostly given way to native shrubs and grasses, petunias have disappeared, buckwheats and penstemons are in bloom.

My hope is that some of you will be stimulated to think about what a native-style landscape might mean in your region. What plants could be used to illustrate and evoke the beautiful and unique place where you live? Meanwhile, for starters, here is my sample plant list for a lowland Southern Idaho landscape that if done well-and with the addition of a few rocks-could work:

Shrubs, for structure. This is probably the most important set of plants for creating a native sense of place:

- Sagebrush (Artemisia spp.)
- Rabbitbrush (Ericameria nauseosa)
- Fernbush (Chamaebatiaria millefolium)
- Bitterbrush (Purshia tridentata)
- Curleaf mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus ledifolius)

Forbs, for color:

- Buckwheats (Eriogonum spp.), especially sulfur, strict, cushion and whorled (E. umbellatum, E. strictum, E. ovalifolium, E. heracleoides)
- Woolly sunflower/Oregon sunshine (Eriophyllum lanatum)
- · Daisies/fleabanes (Erigeron spp.), especially cutleaf, showy, shaggy, desert yellow (E. compositus, E. speciosus, E. pumilus, E. linearis)
- Sundancer daisy (Hymenoxys acaulis)

- Lewis flax (Linum lewisii)
- Penstemons (Penstemon spp.), especially Barrett's, Davidson's, shrubby, Utah and lovely (P. barrettiae, P. davidsonii, P. fruticosus, P. utahensis, P. venustus)
- Globernallows (Sphaeralcea spp.)

Grasses:

- Prairie junegrass (Koeleria macrantha)
- Great Basin wildrye (Leymus cinereus)
- Indian ricegrass (Achnatherum hymenoides)

Groundcovers:

- Pussytoes (Antennaria spp.)
- Kinnikinnick (Arctostaphylos uva-ursi)



Doug & Pat Mason

arown conifer seedlings and Palouse area native forbs and grasses for reforestation, restoration, and landscaping.

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Welcome to the Blackwell Island Native Plant and Pollinator Garden

By LeAnn Abell, Calypso Chapter and BLM Botanist, Coeur d'Alene District Office

The one-third acre Blackwell Island Native Plant and Pollinator Garden is located within the boundaries of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Blackwell Island Recreation Site on the outskirts of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The following objectives for the garden were developed in the original BLM project proposal: a) with youth involvement, establish and maintain a native plant garden at a popular, local BLM recreation site to use as an educational tool for the public; and b) the garden is planted with native species that emphasize various values associated with native plants (e.g., aesthetics, habitat, food, erosion control), and the connections between people, native plants, and pollinators.

In August 2014, BLM Coeur d'Alene Field Office employees built the garden paths and garden plots using



Garden bed emphasizing native plant species, June 2015. Photo by LeAnn Abell.

rented equipment, including a mini-excavator, skid-steer loader, and tandem-drum vibrating road roller. A key feature of the Blackwell Island Recreation Site is accessibility, which the BLM wanted to provide in the garden as well: therefore, the main garden trails were constructed of compacted gravel and built to standard accessibility widths. Locations where four benches will be placed were also constructed to be accessible.

Because summer and fall 2014 in Northern Idaho were quite warm and dry, the planting phase was postponed until spring 2015. The species selected for the garden are native to the Inland Northwest (roughly eastern Washington: northern Idaho: western Montana: southeastern B.C./Alberta). Funding was used to purchase plants from two different commercial nurseries. For species that were not available from nurseries, the



Garden overview immediately post-construction, August 2014. Drone operated by Dan Lyden.

BLM salvaged a small number of plants from project areas where the plants would have been obliterated by new road construction, for example. The University of Idaho Arboretum also donated excess plants. Under the direction of a Forest Service Coeur d'Alene Nursery horticulturist, 37 Lake City High School Advanced Placement Environmental Science students sowed seed for five plant species in their classroom (blanketflower, Clarkia, fireweed, Idaho fescue, yarrow) and cared for the plants for three months.

In late March 2015, the students and more than 15 adults converged at the Blackwell Garden to plant the five



Lake City High School students planting species beneficial to pollinators, March 2015. Photo by Lisa Wagner.

species raised in the classroom; plus trees, shrubs, wild-flowers, and grasses that are local native plants; are

culturally significant; and benefit pollinators. The garden was maintained during the subsequent very warm and dry spring and summer by volunteers from the INPS Calypso Chapter. Supplemental watering was provided to help the plants establish; weeding helped reduce competition from undesirable species; and application of deer repellent made the plants (somewhat!) less appealing to the local wildlife.

Six interpretive signs have been funded and are in the design phase and will be scattered among the garden beds. This spring, a grant for a "Welcome-to-the-Garden" sign was obtained by Karen Colson through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's grant process. Additional signs and interpretive brochures will eventually be designed and made available, as funding allows. The BLM has coordinated with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's Historic Preservation Officer to ensure culturally-important plants are included in the garden and featured on interpretive signs.

Hopefully, a visitor to the garden will see thriving native plants: learn about culturally significant species; observe a healthy pollinator community; become more educated about the connections between people, native plants, and pollinators; and take some time to stroll through the garden and perhaps pause and enjoy the view from one of the benches. •

Palouse Prairie Field Guide: An Introductory Guide to Native Plants, Agricultural Crops and Invasive Weeds for the Curious

By Dave M. Skinner, Jacie W. Jensen and Gerry Queener

The Palouse Prairie Field Guide was conceived to help people identify many of the plants found in the prairie regions of Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Montana. This includes the Palouse Prairie, Rathdrum Prairie, Zumwalt Prairie, and Camas Prairie. Included in the Field Guide are the most common native plants of the Palouse Prairie, as well as the working agricultural fields. Near the end of the book are some "invasive non-native" plants that inhabit the region.



The Field Guide is ar-

ranged by flower color, as this is often the first attribute noticed. Plant family name, common name, scientific name, habitat, distribution, and other information are included for each species in the field guide. The scientific name includes a phonetic spelling. The guide is complete with photographs courtesy of various contributors and illustrations by young local artist Julianne Bledsoe, and is compact and practical in size and structure.

It was the authors' hope, through this introductory Palouse Prairie Field Guide, that the lines between all types of lands will blur. Each of us, whether native, agricultural, or urban landowners, or public-lands visitors, determine the future of all our lands. The Field Guide was made as a "carry along with you" book. The spiral binding and pocketable size (4" wide X 8.5" tall) should encourage the curious to include it on even the briefest of walks.

The guide is dedicated to Dave Skinner, who passed away on January 28, 2016, at the age of 68. Material gathering for the guide started with the wealth of information Skinner accumulated throughout his career.

Suggested Retail price: \$23.95. Locations for purchasing the Palouse Prairie Field Guide include: Aunties Bookstore, Spokane The Well-Read Moose, Coeur d'Alene Main Street Books, Colfax Four Star Supply, Inc.. Colfax And Books Too!, Clarkston Patt's Garden Center, Clarkston Blue Lantern Coffee House, Lewiston The Shop at the Barn, Uniontown Four Star Supply, Inc. Pullman Pullman Chamber of Commerce, Pullman Bookpeople, Moscow UI Vandal Store, Moscow and Boise Spence Hardware, Moscow Marketime Drug, Moscow Historical Museum at St. Gertrude Nez Perce National Park Visitor's Center, Spalding Hell's Gate State Park, Lewiston Thorn Creek Native Seed Farm www.nativeseedfarm.com For more information, contact: Jacie Jensen, jacie[at]nativeseedfarm.com

- Submitted by Jacie Jensen

INPS Chapter News

CALYPSO CHAPTER

<u>When:</u> Meetings are held the first Wednesdays of March, April, May and October at 7:00 p.m. Field trips take place during the spring, summer, and early fall months.

<u>Where:</u> Meetings are held in the conference room of Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 2885 W. Kathleen Ave., Coeur d'Alene.

<u>Contact</u>: Derek Antonelli, antonelli8[at]frontier.com Upcoming events:

July 9: Revett Lake hike. Meet behind Walgreen's at US 95 and Appleway/Best Ave at 8:00 a.m. to car pool. Revett Lake is in the Coeur d'Alene Mountains near Thompson Pass.

July 30: Potluck at Antonelli family Hayden Lake cabin, 10:00 a.m. Cabin is at 15682 N. Shenandoah Drive - come by boat or car. Explore Hayden Lake for aquatic vegetation. Potluck lunch will be about noon.

August 13: Roman Nose Lakes hike. Meet at NE corner of Hayden Walmart parking lot at 7:30 a.m. to carpool. The Roman Nose Lakes are high in the Selkirk Mountains out of Bonners Ferry.

October 5: Growing North Idaho native plants - by Bob Wilson of Cedar Mountain Perennials in Athol. **November 1:** The North Idaho Rare Plant Working

Group will be meeting in Moscow starting at 9:30 a.m.

LOASA CHAPTER

All members and the public are welcome to attend chapter events.

When: Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month.

<u>Where:</u> Taylor Building, Room 258, College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls.

Contact: Bill Bridges, bridgesbill34[at]yahoo.com

PAHOVE CHAPTER

<u>When:</u> Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month from September–April at 7:00 p.m. Dates and times are occasionally subject to change. Upcoming meeting information is sent to members via postcard and/or email. Events are also posted on the Pahove Chapter page of the INPS website:

http://idahonativeplants.org/pahove/

<u>Where:</u> MK Nature Center, 600 S. Walnut Street, Boise. <u>Contact:</u> For more information about Pahove Chapter activities please visit the Pahove Chapter page of the INPS website or contact chapter president Karie Pappani at pahove.chapter.president[at]gmail.com Previous events:

Spring Plant Sale: Pahove's annual Plant Sale, held April 22-23, 2016, at MK Nature Center (MKNC) in Boise, again encouraged hundreds of Treasure Valley gardeners to buy thousands of native plants, few found in local commercial nurseries. Special native plants offered this year included unrooted cactus cuttings from Plantasia Cactus Garden in Twin Falls. We sold coral- and pinkflowering Opuntia polyacantha and smaller, yellowflowered Opuntia fragilis. Packaging these thorny devils for safe display and sale was challenging: we placed an empty plastic 4" square pot inside an 11" high paper bag, and then inserted the cactus piece with needle-nose pliers. We added LaMar Orton's printed instructions for the cuttings. No shrieks were heard during the sale, so our packages must have been OK. Other hard-to-find plants sold included western swordfern (Polystichum munitum), hairy golden aster (Heterotheca villosa), yellow beeplant (Cleome lutea), hairy evening-primrose (Oenothera villosa), Hooker's balsamroot (Balsamorhiza hookeri), matted buckwheat (Eriogonum caespitosum), bitterroot (Lewisia rediviva), and purple sage (Salvia dorrii). We also offered organic garden seeds from the local Snake River Seed Co-op and much free plant advice. Profit from our sale supports native plant education and advocacy in the Boise area and beyond, as well as Pahove's donation of 25% of sale profit to MKNC, our meeting location.

The Plant Sale would never succeed without the amazing planning and exhausting, persistent efforts of Susan Ziebarth and many dedicated Pahove volunteers and significant others. We appreciate this wonderful help. We also thank our growers for supplying such a wide array of native plants: Buffalo-berry Farm (Jim Crawford and Margo Conitz) in Lake Fork; Draggin' Wing Farm (Diane Jones) in Boise; Xeric Gardening (Peggy Faith) in Boise; Snake River Seed Co-op (Casey O'Leary) in Boise; Plants of the Wild in Tekoa, Washington; Plantasia Cactus Garden (Lamar Orton) in Twin Falls; and Great Bear Natives in Billings, Montana. Visit our sale next April to enhance your garden with exciting new native plant delights.

Upcoming events:

September: Season kick-off pizza party at Idaho Botanical Garden. Date and time TBD.

SAWABI CHAPER

The public is always invited to Sawabi events. <u>Contact:</u> Karl Holte at plantprof[at]live.com, (208) 241-8358 Sawabi Chapter schedules two or more field trips each month during the summer and early fall seasons. We invite all interested people, members or not, to join us on these outings. For trips scheduled on a Monday, arrange carpooling by meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the bison sculpture in front of the Idaho Museum of Natural History, on the Idaho State University campus; or meet at 6:30 p.m. at the trip site. The time and meeting location for Saturday field trips will vary with the destination. For specific information, phone Geoff Hogander, (208) 232-3437, or Karl Holte, (208) 241-8358.

Previous events:

May 2: The summer field trips were preceded by a photo show presented by Drs. Roger Boe and Karl Holte, who each had visited Death Valley in February. The spectacular bloom and memorable vistas portrayed during their presentation were enjoyed by 56 people in attendance. **May 14:** Was the "kickoff" field trip to Cherry Springs, led by Karl Holte, to find early spring wildflowers and other plants. Traditionally, a potluck dinner followed this initial field trip of the season, but this year a dinner was sponsored by Karl and Ardys Holte's daughters and family to celebrate the Holte's recent birthdays, Karl's 85th and Ardys' 80th. This was an open-house event for all their friends.

Upcoming events:

June 6: Ruth Moorhead will guide participants along the roads and trails in the Justice Park area on Scout Mountain. In this higher elevation area spring flowers should still abound even though everything seems to be blooming at least two weeks earlier than in other years.

June 18: We will travel to Craters of the Moon, where an on-site biologist will guide us to areas with early summer flowers.

June 20: Geoff Hogander and Bob McCoy will take us along the South Fork of Mink Creek to compare an eastfacing exposure with a west-facing slope supporting sagebrush and juniper habitat, separated by marshland and a creek.

June 25: Paul Allen will lead the group to Deep Creek near Franklin, Idaho—an area Sawabi has not previously visited as a group.

July 9: Paul Allen will lead a visit and possibly camp overnight in the Big Elk Creek area of the Palisades Reservoir, for a look at plants at a higher elevation, reminiscent of trips near Pocatello earlier in the year.
July 11: Ruth Moorhead will again lead us to the Scout Mountain area where fragile, ephemeral spring flowers will have given way to the perennial summer flora.
July 16: Mel Nicholls will lead us through Big Springs Campground near Lava Hot Springs to visit open mead-

ow, shaded nature trail, and wetland areas. Weekend camping is available.

August 6: Mesa Falls in the Island Park area will be our destination, led by Karl Holte. Everyone loves this beautiful area with its two waterfalls and lush late-summer vegetation. If time permits we will drive up to Sawtell Peak. Some may want to stay and camp in the area.

August 20: We will be hosted by LaMar Orton in his beautiful Plantasia Gardens in Twin Falls. The group also hopes to enjoy a side-trip to catch the high mountain vegetation of Mt. Harrison, including the rare Christ's paintbrush. Camping in the area would be a highlight. **September 10:** A trip to Bloomington Canyon will feature aspen forests and high mountain meadows. Ruth Moorhead will be the leader. Again, camping is a good possibility.

September 17: We will finish the summer outings with our usual enjoyment of outstanding fall foliage colors in Goodenough Canyon near McCammon, plus a group picnic. Geoff Hogander will lead this outing.

UPPER SNAKE CHAPTER

The Upper Snake Chapter is currently inactive. <u>Contact:</u> Rose Lehman, jojorose[at]cableone.net If anyone is interested in reviving the chapter, they are welcome to contact Rose.

WHITE PINE CHAPTER

<u>When:</u> Meetings are held once a month at 7:00 p.m. except during the summer. Field trips occur most any month. Please check the chapter website at www.whitepineinps.org for events which may be scheduled or finalized after Sage Notes is printed; or email the chapter officers at whitepine.chapter[at]gmail.com Where: Great Room of the 1912 Building, 412 East Third St., Moscow (between Adams and Van Buren). <u>Contact:</u> INPS, White Pine Chapter, PO Box 8481, Moscow, ID 83843 or whitepine.chapter[at]gmail.com

WOOD RIVER CHAPTER

<u>When:</u> Meetings are held various weekday evenings beginning at 7:00 p.m.

<u>Where:</u> Meetings are held at the Sawtooth Botanical Garden, located three miles south of Ketchum, on Highway 75 and Gimlet Road.

Contact: Cynthia Langlois at cplangloisACRP

[at]msn.com for information about field trips and presentations. Also, check the Sawtooth Botanical Garden website: sbgarden.org for updates on presentations.



IDAHO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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Memberships run calendar year. New memberships enrolled after June 1 include the following year. *Renew or join online: https://idahonativeplants.org/membership/*

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